MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE RUBBER BOARD

SHRI P. J. KURIEN: I move the following Motion:—

"That in pursuance of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947 (24 of 1947), read with sub-rule (2) of rule 4 of of the Rubber Rule, 1955, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the Members of the House to be a Member of the Rubber Board in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Sh. Thennala Balakrishna Pillai from the mebership of Rubber Board on the 4th May, 1992."

The question was put and the motion was ***adopted.***

RE. WITHDRAWAL OF TELEPHONE QUOTA OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will have .... (*Interruptions*) Just a minute.

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मोम अफजल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेडम आज के अखबारों में खबर आई है कि कम्युनिकेशन मिनिस्टर साहब मैंबरान-ए-पार्लियामेंट के टेलीफोन का कोटा खत्म कर रहे हैं शायद । वह यहां बैठे हुए है । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यह खबर सही है या गलत है ? अगर यह उसे खत्म कर रहे है तो उसकी क्या वजह है ? मैडम कम्युनिकेशन मिनिस्टर खुद यहां तशरीफ रखते हैं मैं उनसे दरख्वास्त करूंगा कि अखबारों में छपा है कि आप मैंबरान-ए-पार्लियामेंट का टेलीफोन का जो कोटा है उसे वह खत्म करना चाहते । अगर आप खत्म करना चाहते है तो राय-करम जरा यह बता दें कि क्यों हैम करना चाहते है ?

شری محمد افضل عرف م. افضل (اتر پردیش): میڈم آج کے اخباروں میں خبر آئی ہے کہ کمیونیکیشن منسٹر صاحب ممبران پارلیمنٹ کا کوٹہ ختم کر رہے ہیں شاید۔ وہ یہاں بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں۔ میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا یہ خبر صحیح ہے یا غلط ہے۔ اگر یہ اسے ختم کر رہے ہیں تو اس کی کیا وجہ ہے۔ میڈم کمیونیکیشن منسٹر صاحب خود یہاں تشریف رکھتے ہیں میں ان سے درخواست کروں گا کہ اخباروں میں چھپا ہے کہ ممبران پارلیمنٹ کا ٹیلیفون کا جو کوٹہ ہے اسے وہ ختم کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ اگر آپ ختم کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم فرما دیں کہ کیوں ختم کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): Madam, with great difficulty we got this facility. Now, the Minister wants to withdraw it because there is some misuse somewhere. If there is some misuse, let him take action, let the culprits be hanged. But whatever facility is there, it should not be withdrawn. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): What is the reaction of Minister?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Let my line be connected to him first. Let the communication gap not be there. मंत्री जी आपको कुछ कहना है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Madam Deputy

† [ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

Chairman, yesterday, in the other House, there was a question on this where I explained my problem that these are the problems being faced. There was a suggestion from the Members of Parliament that this quota should be stopped. This is a suggestion from the Members of Parliament. (*Interruptions*)

..SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: It is applicable to the Minister's discretionary quota also?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam... (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:-Order, please. Let him answer. (*Interruptions*)

श्री मुहम्मद मसूद खान (उत्तर प्रदेश): हमारा टेलीफोन नहीं ... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफ़जल : अगर यह खबर सही है तो मिनिस्टर का भी खत्म होना चाहिए (**व्यवधान**)

†محمد افضل عرف میم افضل: اگر یہ خبر صحیح ہے تو منسٹر صاحب کا بھی ختم ہونا چاہیئے

श्री मुहम्मद मसूद खान : मेरा पर्सनल टेलीफोन ... (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : उनकी बात तो सुनने दीजिए ... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री मुहम्मद मसूद खान : मेरा टेलीफोन दो महीने में भी नहीं लग पाया है। यह कोटे में क्या करते होंगे यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता है । (**व्यवधान**)

† [ ] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

श्री अजीत जोगी : (मध्य प्रदेश) : वह बोल रहे हैं उनको बोलने दीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**) मंत्री जी बोलिए ।

उपसभापति : हां बोलिए ।

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: This was the suggestion by some Members of the House and I shared my problem with them and I had suggested that under the OYT category, hon. Members of Parliament can ... (*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order please. Let the Minister speak.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): But if he says that as Members of Parliament we can have this privilege only after we pay Rs. 8000 under the OYT, he should understand that we are not having connections with industrialists. We do not ask for telephone connections for the businessmen. He may decide not to give us these telephones but let him not say this.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): If the Communications Minister wants to earn a little more money by allowing these connections under OYT category on the basis of MPs' recommendations, then ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It looks like a cross-connection.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It means that Government wants to earn a little more on telephones sanctioned on MPs' recommendations. That is one thing. But if he says that MPs' recommendations are being misused and to stop this misuse on MPs' recommendations he wants to shift these connections to OYT category, this as such will not help him to reduce the misuse. Let him say what is the percentage of this misuse, and why they can't have a type of mechanism to stop this misuse? It is like suggesting to cut off the head to stop headache...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister reply. Please take your seats now. I am not allowing.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: If there is a complaint about misuse by the Members of Parliament, I invite the Minister to take action against whosoever may be responsible for it. Let him take action .

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Let there be a House Committee to look into it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I do not want any House Committee. I want to say that if a Member of Parliament has violated the norms or if he has misused it, let his name be declared or let the law take its own course. But let that not be the plea or the pretext on the part of the Minister to curtail this privilege, having given it to us. And if he makes it a condition that we can only get telephone under OYT, which indirectly implies that we can give the telephone to a rich man only, we would not take it. As an individual I say, if you give this privilege to me with this condition, I am going to refuse it because indirectly you want Members of Parliament to recommend to you, for telephone connections on payment of Rs. 8000/-. It is a blot on us. You encourage us to have connections with people who are having money. This is impossible. This is a slur and this is, in fact, an encouragement to corruption by the Minister. Therefore. I want this privilege to be continued. If he does not want it to continue on some technical reason, that is different. But let him not find a plea or a pretext whatever...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't make a speech here on telephones.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Let him not say that some Members suggest it. Who are the Members? He tells the House that he is taking this action on the recommendation of some Members. Who are the Members, I would like to know. If somebody in the other House has said it, let him do it in the other House, not in the Rajya Sabha. We want the Minister to tell us. He must respond.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया यदि मंत्री जी ने यह कोटा समाप्त इसलिए किया है कि उसकी टेक्निकल कठिनाइयां है तो बात समझ में आ सकती है। (व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him answer. (*Interruptions*) We are not having; any discussion. (*Interruptions*)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : लेकिन यदि उनकी यह शिकायत है कि एम०पीज० गलत इस्तेमाल कर रहे है तो मैं समझता हूं कि शिकायत उचित नहीं है। दूसरे यह कि यदि आप कोटा समाप्त करना चाहते हैं तो अगले साल से कीजिए, जो इस साल का कोटा है, उसको तो पूरा होने दीजिए। अगर करना चाहते हैं . . (व्यवधान) . . तो मेरा आग्रह यह है कि एक बार आपने जो सुविधा दी है उसको वापिस मत लीजिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not permitting any more. I am not permitting. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALASAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam, one minute. (*Interruptions*) I seek your permission...(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. It is not a question of any party that everybody wants to speak. It is a question of the right of the Members of the House. Let one person represent it. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. I am not going to waste the time of the House on this. Let the hon. Minister answer. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALASAMY: Madam, kindly permit me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Kindly give me one minute, Madam. I will take just one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you want to say (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I would like to submit that if any Member is found misusing the quota given to the Members by the Government, let the Government take any action.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has been said already. (*Interruptions*) It has been said already.

SHRI V. GAPALSAMY: It is said that Members of Parliament are misusing the quota and, therefore, they are withdrawing this facility. I would like to ask a question. There is an allegation that some of the Members have rented out their houses. Will the Government take back the houses given to the Members. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't derail the thing. Please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is in the air. (Interruptions) This sort of allegation is also there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Government take back the houses given to Members of Parliament.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no debate on this.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It will be telling upon the integrity of Members of Parliament.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. There is no debate on this. (*Interruptions*)

श्री शांति त्यागी : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम,

उपसभापति : त्यागी जी, बैठिए ।

श्री शांति त्यागी : मैंने कहा, मंत्री जी बोल रहे हैं ।

उपसभापति : हां, हां, बोल रहे हैं । आप बैठिए, न जवाब दे देंगे । आप लोग उन्हें बोलने तो देते नहीं हैं ।

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam, I was a healthy exchange of views in the other House. Members of Parliament exchanged their views with me. I also exchanged my views with them. I do not know why hon. Members are jumping to the conclusion that Government has decided, or, some decision has been taken. We have not decided anything. It was only a discussion with Members of Parliament. Some of them suggested. I replied to them. They were suggesting withdrawal. But we have not taken any decision. I do not know why hon. Members are jumping to the conclusion that we have stopped the quota, that we are going to agree to that demand. It was only a healthy discussion. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The matter is closed now. (*Interruptions*) There is no issue before me. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Madam, I want to raise an issue. I met you earlier.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRAN: What is the issue?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, the issue is ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have permitted him.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: After that, will you permit me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAI: I have allowed Mr. Sukomal Sen first. What is your matter, Mr. Sinha? I will allow you. Let me allow Mr. Sukomal Sen first, (*Interruptions*) Do you want to raise a privilege issue? Then, I will allow you first.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I have written a letter to you, today, on the basis of certain newspaper reports... (*Interruptions*)

श्री मूलचन्द मीणा (राजस्थान) : हमारे को भी सुन लीजिए ।

उपसभापति : मीणा जी, हाउस चलने का एक तरीका होता है । आपको अभी पता नहीं है कि अगर कोई प्रिवलेज का ईश्यू मैम्बर उठाता है, तो उसको पहले प्रिफरेंस दिया जाता है । हम लोग आपको तरीका बता देंगे । इसीलिए मैंने इन्हें पहले अलाऊ किया है । दूसरा ईश्यू, जो सुकोमल जी ने उठाया है, वह भी किसी वजह से मैंने अलाऊ किया है । थोड़ा मुझ पर भरोसा कीजिए तो बहतरी होगी ।

RE. QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Madam, certain development have taken place, internal developments have taken place in a political party in the country. That is their interal matter. We are not concerned with it. But what concerns us, in this House, is the allegations which are being levelled, one against the other. Now, even that was on an informal basis, so far. But this morning, when I looked at the newspapers, I came across a news-item where, clearly, a Member of the other House has levelled serious allegations of bribery and corruption against an hon. Member of this House. That Member, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, is sitting here. I am saying this in front of him. He has been accused by Mr. George Fernandes, who is a Member of the other House, that has been instrumental in making an offer of money for Members of a political party changing their loyalty, changing their side. I feel that by making such an allegation Mr. George Fernandes has committed a serious breach of privilege of this House because a Member of this House, an hon. Member of this House, has been brought into disrepute and through him the whole House has been brought into disrepute. Therefore.

AN HON. MEMBER: There cannot be a question of privilege on this. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): This is a matter of individual opinion. This can never be a matter of privilege.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Just a minute. Therefore, Madam Deputy Chairman, I have given you a notice of privilege. I suggest that you refer this matter to the Privileges Committee. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I did not allow you.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): He has no right to level charges against any Member...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I did not allow you. I did not allow you any one. I only allowed Mr. Yashwant Sinha because I have... (*Interruptions*). Just a second, Mr. Subramanian Swamy. I have his notice of privilege signed by two Members, Mr. Sinha and Mr. Sahay. I have got this notice. We are examining it. We will see whether it comes strictly within the purview of the question of privilege or not. We will examine it and see. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): My name has been mentioned. I should be allowed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will allow you. (*Interruptions*). Hon. Members, there is a Committee of Privileges constituted by certain rules, regulations and order. When a Member gives a privilege notice, it is not necessary that everytime that privilege is accepted. It is the right of a Member to move a motion of privilege. Whether the Chairman accepts it or not is also the right of the Chairman. Whether it is to be accepted or not, that will be examined, but you cannot curtail the right of a Member to move a privilege motion, and that he has done. Let the Committee examine it. That is over. (*Interruptions*).